



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Open burning event scheduled to occur at Mantle Well site in Assumption Parish

BATON ROUGE – Mantle Oil and Gas, LLC will use an air curtain destructor to burn road board used in the cleanup of a well blowout that occurred in Assumption Parish in August, 2010. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality issued the facility a permit to use the air curtain destructor and the burn will begin on Monday. The burn is a necessary waste handling measure that will burn more than 200 tons of road board.

The burn will take place in a pit at the site between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., starting on Monday and running until the road board is eliminated. All contaminated materials have been removed from the materials being burned. It will be conducted at a safe distance beyond the regulatory 1,000 feet from any dwellings or residential areas, and the protective air curtain destructor will be positioned around the pit to ensure that any offsite environmental impact is minimized. The curtain will emit intense heat that is designed to destroy any contamination that may be present. Little to no smoke will be seen as a result and the event will be conducted within DEQ regulations and guidelines set forth in Mantle Oil and Gas, LLC's, air permit. DEQ technical staff will be at the site at various times throughout the burn to monitor for hydrocarbon presence in the surrounding area as well as conducting unannounced inspections to ensure that procedures are being implemented in accordance with environmental regulations.

In August, 2010, a blowout occurred at the Mantle Oil well site in a large sugar cane field in Assumption Parish. The fire caused an evacuation of at least six nearby residences, shutting down a two-mile stretch of Louisiana Highway 70 before it was suppressed. DEQ emergency response teams and environmental scientists were immediately on the scene to assess the environmental impact and take air samples to ensure for protection of human health and the environment. No injuries were reported. The exploratory well was in the process of being completed when the blowout occurred.